

Freedom High School

Choral Music

Handbook

2016–2017



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Forms to be signed and returned

<i>Handbook Agreement Form</i>	<i>Form 1</i>
<i>Course Expectations and Grading Policy Signature Sheet</i>	<i>Form 2</i>



FHS CHOIR DATES 2016-17 SCHOOL YEAR

2016

June 6 New Member Parent- Student Meeting – 6:00 p.m. FHS Choir rm 405 (mandatory)
 July 8 -15: Summer Choir Camp 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. (see attached schedule) (mandatory)
 Notify Mrs. Volpato of any vacation conflicts prior to June 6, 2016
 July 12: Full Choir Parent-Student Meeting including all new members
 6:00 p.m. in the FHS band rm
 Disney parent-student trip meeting (mandatory) will follow ; any student that is going on the Dec 2016 Disney trip should plan to attend this meeting with a parent)
 August 16: Make-up day for students that missed any portion of summer choir camp
 August 30: Full Choir performs for opening of school assembly – come in on freshman start time
 September 13: Choir Parent & Student FHSVMPO General Membership Meeting 6:00 p.m. (*required attendance for parent and student*)
 September 15: Full Choir performs at Open House (Mandatory) (time to be announced)
 October 18/19: Choir Kutztown Choral Festival (all choir) – all day 7:00 a.m. depart from FHS
 Return approx.. 2 p.m. (date will be confirmed based on transportation)
 October 24: District Chorus auditions at Parkland HS (5:00 – 10:00 p.m.- FHS assigned we will be notified of audition time slots in September; students provide their own transportation)
 November 17: Choir retreat 2:30 – 6:00 p.m. (Mandatory)
 Choir Parent & Student FHSVMPO General Membership Meeting 6:00 p.m. (*requested attendance for parent and student*)
**all dress and tux payments due at this time*
 November 22, November 29, & November 30: Holiday Concert Dress Rehearsals
 2:30 – 5 p.m (Mandatory)
 December 1: East Hills Assembly Performance of Holiday Concert Program: block 1 and 2
 December 2: Choral/Orchestra Holiday Concert 7:30 p.m.
 students arrive @5:45p.m. (Mandatory)
 December 5: Final Disney rehearsal
 December 6-11: Disney trip
 Barnes and Noble Night: date and time to be determined

2017

January 12 - 14: PMEA District 10 Chorus Festival, Bangor HS, Bangor, PA
 January 17 & 20: County Chorus Pen Argyl High School (times to be announced, full day rehearsal, students provide their own transportation)
 February 1: Choir retreat 2:30 – 6:00 p.m. (Mandatory)
 Choir Parent & Student FHSVMPO General Membership Meeting 6:00 p.m. (*requested attendance for parent and student*)
 February 15 Coffee House Dress Rehearsals 2:30 – 5 p.m. (Mandatory)- in café right
 February 17: Choir Coffee House 7 p.m., students arrive @5:15p.m. (Mandatory)- in café right
 February 20: Choir Coffee House Snowdate (Mandatory) – in café right
 Feb. 23-25 - PMEA Region Chorus Emmaus HS, Emmaus PA

April 12: Choir retreat 2:30 – 6:00 p.m. (Mandatory)
Choir Parent & Student FHSVMPO General Membership
Meeting 6:00 p.m. (*requested attendance for parent and student*)
Final meeting of the year and officer elections
April 19-21: PMEA All-State Festival
April 22: Alumni 50th Anniversary Concert 7 p.m.
May 1, May 2, and May 3: Spring Concert Dress Rehearsal 2:30 – 5 p.m (Mandatory)
May 4: FHS Choir Concert 7:30 p.m., students arrive @5:45 p.m. (Mandatory)
May 12 – end of year Award ceremony 4:30 – 7:30 p.m

**Other Important Music Department Dates for those involved in
Band, Orchestra, and/or Theater:**

2016

July 7,14,21,28 - Summer Band - 6:00 to 8:00pm
August 1-5, Freedom Band Camp - 9:00am to 4pm
August 8-12, Freedom Band Camp - 9:00am to 4pm
August 15-19, Freedom Band Camp - 9:00am to 4pm
August 20 - Freedom Band preview show - 7:00pm
September 1 – Theater Company meeting
September 6 -9 – Theater Company fall musical auditions
September 24 - Celtic Classic Parade - Band - 11:30am
October 30 - Bethlehem Halloween Parade - 2:00pm
November 10 – 13, Fall Musical
November 25 - Bethlehem Christmas Tree Lighting - Band - 4:30pm
December 1 – Theater company spring musical meeting
Dec. 3 - PMEA Instrumental Auditions - Parkland HS
Dec. 12 – 22nd – Theater company spring musical auditions
Dec 16 - orch holiday pops - 7:30pm
Dec 26 to 30 - Band trip to Florida

2017

Jan. 26-28 - PMEA District Orchestra
Feb. 9-11 - PMEA District Band
Feb. 23-25 - PMEA Region Chorus
March 9-11 - PMEA Region Orchestra
March 11 - Parade of Shamrocks - Patriot Band - 1:00pm
March 23-25 - PMEA Region Band
April 5 to 9 - Spring musical
April 21 - Spring Band concert - 7:30pm
April 22 - 50th anniversary alumni concert - 7:00pm
April 28 - Spring Orchestra concert - 7:30pm
May 15- May 25- Freddie's rehearsals and (performance May 25th)
May 19 – Talent Show
May 29 - Memorial Day Parade and Ceremony - Patriot Band - 10:00am

*After school rehearsals: Tuesdays- Les Chanteurs; Wednesdays – Bell Choir; Fridays – Chorale
District Chorus students that are in the fall show will rehearse 1 morning per week. All other district chorus
students will rehearse after school on Mondays, other than the first Monday of the month.



Note from the Director

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s) and Students,

Welcome to the Freedom High School Vocal Music Program. I hope that you had a pleasant summer and are excited about the upcoming school year. I would like to take this opportunity to give you a brief description of this handbook.

In this handbook you will find policies, procedures, calendar events, and other important information regarding the Freedom High School Choir program. Please take the time to read through and familiarize yourself with the materials. Once you have read through the handbook, please fill out and sign the agreement form along with any other necessary paperwork found at the back of the handbook.

I look forward to an exciting year of music with many opportunities to develop and enhance vocal performance skills. If you have any questions, please email me at jvolpato@basdschools.org

Musically Yours,

Mrs. Volpato
Choral Music Director

Rehearsal and Performance Procedures

Weekly Rehearsal Schedule

Concert Choir: Rehearses every morning block 1 on days 1,3,5 of the six day cycle

Patriot Choir: Rehearses every morning block 1 on days 2,4,6 of the six day cycle

Les Chanteurs: Rehearses every Tuesday afternoon from 2:30 – 4:00 p.m. with additional rehearsals as needed based upon performance schedule

Bell Choir: Rehearses every Wednesday afternoon from 2:30 – 4:00 p.m.

Chorale: Rehearses every Friday afternoon from 2:30 – 4:00 p.m. with additional rehearsals as needed based upon performance schedule

Section Leaders: Meet the second Monday of every month from 2:30 – 3:30 p.m. for training workshops

Student Advisory Council (includes all officers, section leaders, appointed leaders, and any student that wishes to attend):

Meets the first and last Monday of every month from 2:30 – 3:00 p.m. (Note: some months it may shift due to holidays or other conflict, please refer to google calendar)

Students need to be seated and ready with water bottle, pencil, and music by 7:30 a.m. for morning rehearsals/class and 2:30 p.m. for after school rehearsals.

Arriving late to rehearsal disrupts the group and impedes on practice time. If the student is in school, then he/she is required to attend rehearsal/class. If a student is to miss rehearsal they are to notify Mrs. Volpato ahead of time or within a 24 hour period via e-mail, text, or written note in the choir inbox in rm 405. **Notes must be written and signed by a parent, doctor, or coach.** Please do your best to plan any doctor appointments and other activities around the above indicated rehearsal schedule. Any missed rehearsal that is not communicated in the above format will be considered unexcused after a 2 day period and will result in appropriate consequences:

Block 1 unexcused absences or lates will follow FHS attendance policy and Choir Grading Policy (: Students will lose points as per the choir grading policy rubric attached in this handbook; after 5 lates at any point in the year student will be referred through code of conduct.

After School Rehearsals: Unexcused absences may result in removal from the group, or inability to perform in the concert and will result in a reduction of grade points. We have limited after school rehearsal time in preparation for our concerts and community performances; absence from rehearsal results in decreased success for the rest of the group.

FHS Choir members are expected to attend **ALL** rehearsals and performances during the year. Failure to attend a **performance**, without a valid excuse, **may** result in the loss of participation in the special ensemble or deduction of points in the students marking period grade (as per the accompanying grading policy and procedures). Performance dates are scheduled ahead of time so that you can plan accordingly. Games, practices, theater events, and field trips are **not valid excuses** so please let all coaches and activity directors know now, interscholastic events will be dealt with on a case by case basis in consultation with the FHS coach or activity director!

Students should arrive at the designated call time before a performance in appropriate uniform attire. If the uniform is incomplete or inappropriate to the venue, the student will **not be allowed** to perform. Once arrived, the students should pick up music, get into warm-up position, and wait for the directors' instructions.

After all rehearsals and performances are complete, students will put their music in the appropriate place and will clean up all personal items before leaving. The director will dismiss students at the end of each rehearsal; students are to await the director's permission before leaving.

At the high school level there are times when rehearsals will run over the exact time stated. We try our best to be on time but at this level of performance there are times when we need a few more minutes to work something out, or the students ask for additional time in order to be most prepared for the showcase events that our students participate in for our community. In the event that a student must leave at exactly the time indicated or prior to the conclusion of rehearsal the student should communicate that to the director at the beginning of rehearsal so that accommodations can be made. If a student has not communicated that in advance the expectation is that they will remain until dismissed by the director at the end of rehearsal.

FHS CHOIR COURSE EXPECTATIONS AND GRADING POLICY

Choir students will be graded based upon the following expectations and will be assessed throughout the marking period using the accompanying rubric. These core expectations have been created in collaboration between students and teacher and are reflective of the overall goals and curricular standards and objectives of the choir program.

STUDENT AND PARENT/GUARDIAN: PLEASE INITIAL NEXT TO EACH OBJECTIVE BELOW

Attendance:

- ____ Students are expected to arrive on time and be prepared for all classes and performances/concerts
- ____ Students are expected to communicate with the teachers in advance if they are to miss a rehearsal or a performance
- ____ Students are expected to have a note or late pass for late arrivals or missed rehearsals/performances if they were unable to communicate with the teacher in advance
- ____ Students are expected to sign in and indicate time of arrival with the attendance secretaries if arriving late to class

Participation:

- ____ Students are expected to sing when appropriate
- ____ Student are expected to give 100% effort and cooperation
- ____ Students are expected to participate fully in warm-ups, rehearsals, concerts, and performances

Behavior:

- ____ Students are expected to treat peers and teachers with respect at all times
- ____ Students are expected to follow all instructions
- ____ Students are expected to have phones and electronic devices put away during rehearsals and concerts unless they are included as part of the assignment; texting is not acceptable at any time.
- ____ Students are expected to come prepared to rehearse; doing homework, putting on makeup, texting, talking at inappropriate times, or other non-rehearsal or performance related behavior is not acceptable.
Note: There will be additional point deductions for students who are repeatedly caught talking, texting, or not participating during warm-ups and rehearsals.
- ____ Students are expected to be actively involved in rehearsals and performances; therefore, eating, drinking, or chewing gum is not acceptable while singing or in performance.
- ____ Students are expected to clean up all personal items after rehearsals and performances, including trash

Performances:

- Notes relative to performance attendance, participation and behavior are indicated above. The following are additional objectives
- ____ Students are expected to participate in all concerts and/or performance events unless given an excused absence after communicating with one of the directors.
 - ____ Students are expected to be dressed in proper concert attire.
 - ____ Students are expected to assist with clean-up of personal items and breakdown of concert set-up after all concerts and performances

The above expectations have been created to establish a successful and enjoyable choir experience for all students.

Please sign the form below indicating that you have read and understand all expectations included in the choir grading policy. If you have any questions or need further clarification please speak individually with one of the choir directors before signing below; your signature indicates that you have read and understand the expectations.

ALL COURSE EXPECTATIONS MUST BE INITIALED BY BOTH STUDENT AND PARENT/GUARDIAN AND RETURNED BY THE REQUIRED DUE DATE: SEPTEMBER 7TH FOR STUDENTS TO RECEIVE FULL CREDIT FOR COMPLETION.

My signature below indicates that I have read, initialed, and fully understand the above expectations and that I understand that these objectives will be included as part of my choir grade.

Print student name

Student Signature

Date

Print Parent/Guardian name

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

CHOIR ASSESSMENT

Assessment of: _____

Name _____

Section: Concert Pate Both

Folder # _____

	9 - 10 points Outstanding	6 - 8 points Satisfactory	1-5 points Unsatisfactory
Attendance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student arrives on time for all classes, performances, and concerts • Student is prepared for all rehearsals, performances, and concerts • Student always communicates with the teacher in advance if they are to miss a rehearsal or a performance • Student always has a note or late pass for late arrivals or missed rehearsals/performances if they were unable to communicate with the teacher in advance • Student always signs in and indicates time of arrival with the attendance secretary if arriving late to class 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student arrives on time for most classes, performances, and concerts • Student is prepared for most rehearsals, performances, and concerts • Student communicates with the teacher in advance most of the time if they are to miss a rehearsal or a performance • Student has a note or late pass for late arrivals or missed rehearsals/performances most of the time if they were unable to communicate with the teacher in advance • Student signs in and indicates time of arrival with the attendance secretary if arriving late to class most of the time 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student does not consistently arrive on time for classes, performances, and/or concerts • Student is inconsistently prepared for rehearsals, performances, and/or concerts • Student does not communicate appropriately with the teacher in advance if they are to miss a rehearsal or a performance • Student rarely/never has a note or late pass for late arrivals or missed rehearsals/performances if they were unable to communicate with the teacher in advance • Student rarely/never signs in and/or indicates time of arrival with the attendance secretary if arriving late to class
Participation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student always sings when appropriate • Student demonstrates outstanding (100%) effort and cooperation in each rehearsal • Student participates fully in warm-ups, rehearsals, concerts, and performances 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student mostly sings when appropriate • Student demonstrates excellent effort in most rehearsals • Student participates in most warm-ups, rehearsals, concerts, and performances 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student rarely sings when appropriate • Student demonstrates little or no effort during rehearsals • Student does not participate consistently in warm-up, rehearsals, concerts, and performances
Behavior	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student always treats peers and teachers with respect. • Student always follows instructions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student treats peers and teachers with respect most of the time • Student follows instructions most of the time 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student does not treat peers and/or teachers consistently with respect • Student does not consistently follow instructions

Behavior (cont.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student always has phone and electronic devices put away during rehearsals and concerts unless they are included as part of the assignment; they do not text at any time during class/rehearsal • Student is always prepared to rehearse and is never observed doing homework, putting on makeup, texting, talking at inappropriate times, or engaging in other non-rehearsal or performance related behavior • Student is actively involved in all rehearsals and performances • Student follows appropriate rehearsal etiquette and therefore does not eat, drink, or chew gum while singing or in performance. • Student always cleans up personal items, including trash, after rehearsals and performances. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student has phone and electronic devices put away most of the time during rehearsals and concerts unless they are included as part of the assignment and does not text during class/rehearsal • Student is prepared to rehearse most of the time and is rarely observed doing homework, putting on makeup, texting, talking at inappropriate times, or engaging in other non-rehearsal or performance related behavior • Student is actively involved in most rehearsals and performances • Student follows appropriate rehearsal etiquette most of the time and therefore does not eat, drink, or chew gum while singing or in performance. • Student cleans up personal items, including trash, most of the time after rehearsals and performances 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student does not consistently have phone and electronic devices put away during rehearsals and/or concerts and/or is observed texting during class/rehearsal • Student is rarely prepared to rehearse and is often observed doing homework, putting on makeup, texting, talking at inappropriate times, or engaging in other non-rehearsal or performance related behavior • Student is not actively involved in rehearsals and/or performances • Student does not follow appropriate rehearsal etiquette and is frequently observed eating, drinking, or chewing gum while singing or in performance. • Student does not clean up personal items, including trash, after rehearsals and/or performances
FOR PERFORMANCES ONLY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student participated fully in concerts/performances/retreats/ dress rehearsals • Student was dressed in proper concert attire for all events. • Student assisted fully with clean-up of personal items and breakdown of concerts/performances/retreats/ dress rehearsals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student participated most of the time in concerts/performances/ retreats/ dress rehearsals • n/a • Student assisted somewhat with clean-up of personal items and breakdown of concert/performance/retr eat/ dress rehearsal 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student did not participate consistently in concerts/performances/retreats/ dress rehearsals • Student was not dressed in proper concert attire. • Student did not assist with clean-up of personal items and breakdown of concert/performance/retreat/dre ss rehearsal

Teacher Comments:

Student Comments:

Overall Score: /150 points for weekly rehearsal assessment

/ 180 points for concert/dress rehearsal/ retreat/performance assessment

REHEARSAL & PERFORMANCE CHOIR ASSESSMENT

Assessment of: _____

Name _____
 Section: Concert Pate Both
 Folder # _____

	9 - 10 points Outstanding	6 - 8 points Satisfactory	1-5 points Unsatisfactory
Attendance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student arrives on time and remained for entire rehearsal/performance/concert • Student was prepared for entire rehearsal/performance/concert • Student communicated with the teacher in advance if they were to miss rehearsal/concert/ performance • Student had a note or late pass for late arrival or missed rehearsal/performance/ concert that was given to teacher before the end of the rehearsal/performance/ concert • Student signed in upon arrival to rehearsal/performance/ concert 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student did not arrive on time and/or remain for entire rehearsal/performance/concert; however participated in at least 70% • Student was prepared for most of rehearsal/performance/concert • Student communicated with the teacher about missed rehearsal/concert/ performance • Student had a note or late pass for late arrival or missed rehearsal/performance/ concert that was given to teacher <p style="text-align: center;">n/a/</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student participated in less than 70% of rehearsal performance or concert • Student was inconsistently and/or not prepared for rehearsal/performance/concert • Student did not communicate with the teacher at all about missed rehearsal/concert/ performance • Student did not have a note or late pass for late arrival or missed rehearsal/performance/ concert • Student did not sign in upon arrival to rehearsal/performance/ concert
Participation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student sang when appropriate throughout at all times during rehearsal/performance/concert • Student demonstrated outstanding (100%) effort and cooperation in rehearsal/performance/concert • Student participated fully in all aspects of rehearsals/concerts/performances 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student sang most of the time when appropriate throughout rehearsal/performance/concert, but at times did not participate • Student demonstrated excellent effort and cooperation in most of rehearsal/performance/concert • Student participated fully in most aspects of rehearsal/concerts/performance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student rarely sang or participated when appropriate during rehearsal/performance/concert • Student demonstrated little or no effort during rehearsal/performance/concert • Student did not participate consistently in rehearsal/concert/performance

Behavior	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student treated peers and teachers with respect during rehearsal/performance/concert • Student followed instructions throughout entire rehearsal/performance/concert • Student had phone and electronic devices put away during rehearsal/performance/concert • Student was prepared to rehearse and was never observed doing homework, putting on makeup, texting, talking at inappropriate times, or engaging in other non-rehearsal or performance related behavior • Student was actively involved in all rehearsal/performance/concert • Student followed appropriate rehearsal etiquette and therefore did not eat, drink, or chew gum while singing or in performance. • Student cleaned up personal items, including trash, after rehearsal/performance/concert 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student treated peers and teachers with respect during most of rehearsal/performance/concert • Student followed instructions most of the time throughout rehearsal/performance/concert • Student had phone and electronic devices put away during most of rehearsal/performance/concert • Student was prepared to rehearse most of the time and was rarely observed doing homework, putting on makeup, texting, talking at inappropriate times, or engaging in other non-rehearsal or performance related behavior • Student was actively involved in most of rehearsal/performance/concert • Student followed appropriate rehearsal etiquette most of the time and therefore did not eat, drink, or chew gum while singing or in performance. <p>n/a</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student did not treated peers and teachers with respect during rehearsal/performance/concert • Student did not consistently follow instructions • Student did not consistently have phone and electronic devices put away during rehearsal/performance/concert • Student was rarely prepared to rehearse and was often observed doing homework, putting on makeup, texting, talking at inappropriate times, or engaging in other non-rehearsal or performance related behavior • Student was not actively involved in rehearsal/performance/concert • Student did not follow appropriate rehearsal etiquette and was frequently observed eating, drinking, or chewing gum while singing or in performance. • Student did not clean up personal items, including trash, after rehearsal/performance/concert
Uniform & Responsibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student was dressed in proper concert attire. • Student assisted fully with clean-up of personal items and breakdown of concert/performance/retreat/dress rehearsal 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student was dressed in mostly proper concert attire. • Student assisted somewhat with clean-up of personal items and breakdown of concert/performance/retreat/dress rehearsal 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student was not dressed in proper concert attire. • Student did not assist with clean-up of personal items and breakdown of concert/performance/retreat/dress rehearsal

Teacher Comments:

Student Comments:

Overall Score: / 170 points

PERFORMING GROUPS

Patriot Choir and Concert Choir: Large choral ensemble open to anyone who would like to join.

Les Chanteurs: Select auditioned ensemble of 20-25 members. Auditions take place in the spring of the previous school year. Selection is based upon audition rubric criteria, dedication, and level of participation in the main choral ensemble.

Chorale: Select auditioned ensemble of 8 members. Auditions take place in the spring of the previous school year. Selection is based upon audition rubric criteria, dedication, and level of participation in the main choral ensemble.

Bell Choir: Open to any student that would like to join. Participation in one of the vocal ensembles is not required.

PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENTS

Patriot Choir and Concert Choir are graded academic courses; not just extra curricular activities. Grades for these courses will be based upon performance assessment rubrics, participation rubrics, classwork activities, preparation, and attendance as per the vocal music academic requirement of the Pennsylvania Department of Education.

Periodic performance assessments will be given in which students will be required to demonstrate their skill and understanding of content material based upon a variety of accepted rubrics.

After school ensembles are not graded courses, however continued participation in these ensemble will be based upon attendance, dedication, and performance.

COMMUNICATION

All information that parents and students need to know throughout the year will be posted on the web page, announced during rehearsals and parent meetings, and posted in the choir room. Please check for new information **every day**. **It is the responsibility of the student to convey information to their parent/guardian.** At the high school level students are in charge of completing all requirements for their courses and extra curricular activities and parents/guardians serve as the support system, but ultimately it is the student's responsibility to pay attention and to pass along all information, handouts, etc. to their parent/guardian.

REMIND TEXT LINK & ONLINE CHOIR RESOURCES

REMIND Sign-up: Receive updates and text messages to your phone

Start a text to #81010

For Parents:

In the text box write: @fhsparent 1

Hit Send

For Students:

ALL CHOIR: @fhschoir2

Chorale: @fhschorale

Barbershop: @fhsbarber

Les Chanteurs: @fhsles

District Chorus: @choirdist

Section Leaders: @fhssection

Bell Choir: @fhsbell

OTHER ONLINE RESOURCES

Mrs. Volpato: e-mail jvolpato@basdschools.org

Choir webpage at fhschoir@wikispaces.com

- Link our google calendar to yours under the Calendar and dates section

Choir Twitter at fhschoir405

Instagram at @fhschoir

Facebook at fhschoir405

OTHER PLACES TO GO FOR ASSISTANCE OR QUESTIONS

Student Officers - students are encouraged to use student officers as resources and for help

FHSVMPO Officers - parents are encouraged to contact FHSVMPO officers for assistance

*e-mail and contact information for officers can be found on the choir webpage

FREEDOM HIGH SCHOOL VOCAL MUSIC PARENT ORGANIZATION – FHSVMPO

Freedom High School Vocal Music Parents' Organization is organized exclusively for charitable, religious, educational, and scientific purposes, including, for such purposes, the making of distributions to organizations that qualify as exempt organizations under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code.

The best way to find out information about the FHS Choral Music program is to attend our quarterly meetings, indicated on the calendar of events. This is an opportunity to receive information about the Vocal Music Program and activities. Minutes from these meetings will be provided for those who cannot attend but the information presented at these meetings will not be discussed in detail in any other venue.

The Purposes of the Freedom High School Vocal Music Parent's Organization (FHSVMPO) are:

- a. Provide support for the choir programs of Freedom High School
- b. Lend adult time and talent to enhance the choir programs
- c. Provide equipment and other assets to be used in the Vocal Music Department when needs arise that are not covered by the school choir budget
- d. Provide the means for the choir members to participate in trips and activities that are beyond the scope of the regular Bethlehem Area School District music programs
- e. Promote communication between choir director, choir members, and their parents.
- f. To cooperate with those in charge of the Music Department of Freedom High School, and the Bethlehem Area School District so that this program can be kept at the highest quality possible.

ALL PARENTS ARE ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND

- **Please remember that this program is for your children and is only as strong as its volunteers. ***

FINANCES AND STUDENT ACTIVITY ACCOUNTS

The FHSVMPO parent association manages and is responsible for all student fundraisers and student activity accounts. All student profits from fundraisers are credited to each individual student and they are assigned to a student account with their name and an ID number. Parents and students can track the funds in their account by contacting the FHSVMPO treasurer or student account chairperson (names and contact information is available on the choir webpage.) Fundraised money can be used by each student toward performance trips and uniform purchase/rental. All student activity account has been fundraised under the FHSVMPO non-profit organization guidelines and cannot be refunded to a student at the end of their participation in the FHS choir. Any remaining funds can be willed to another student that remains in the choir organization or will be moved into a general fund to help all choir members at the conclusion of the students' participation in the choir organization.

* Note: all fundraisers and payments should be submitted by check and made payable to FHSVMPO.

GENERAL REGULATIONS OF ALL VOCAL ENSEMBLES

The Bethlehem Area School District has policies and guidelines that must be maintained in order for students to remain eligible to participate in all extra curricular activities. The Instrumental Director, in partnership with the Principal, may also add specific guidelines or policies.

The Board of School Directors directs that no student may participate in extracurricular activities who have not maintained a record of academic proficiency sufficient to ensure that participation in extracurricular activities will not interfere with academic achievement and who has failed more than one (1) course during the marking period. (122.3. Authority SC 511 Pol. 102 20 U.S.C. Sec. 4071 et seq BASD Policy Manual)

Sportsmanship

Students who participate in our music program must be mindful of their personal conduct as they are frequently in the public eye. They, therefore, have an obligation to serve as positive role models by demonstrating the following:

- Showing respect for authority and property
- Continually emphasizing the ideals of sportsmanship, loyalty, ethical conduct and fair play
- Consistently demonstrating a positive attitude and focus toward the goal of music performance which fosters and does not detract individual success and the success of the ensemble as a whole

TRAVEL AND FIELD TRIPS

All students are required to turn all appropriate district paperwork and permission slips in a timely fashion by the assigned deadline. Any student that does not have appropriate signed documentation by the deadline may not be permitted to attend the field trip.

CHAPERONES AND PARENT VOLUNTEERS

Any parent that wishes to serve as a chaperone or volunteer is required to complete the appropriate Criminal Record Check and Background Clearances as required by the Bethlehem Area School District prior to serving as a volunteer that will be interacting with students. The detailed information on these requirements and the application process can be found on the school district webpage under the following link <https://www.beth.k12.pa.us/ParentsStudents/>. All volunteers must provide required records to the choral director and school district indicating the completion of these clearances prior to working with choir students.

UNIFORM INFORMATION

Winter Concert: All students will wear concert robes provided by the Choir. Black dress pants/skirt are to be worn under the concert robe. Black socks/stockings and black dress shoes, are to be worn as well. It is recommended that a black t-shirt or tank top that is not revealing be worn for a shirt under the robes as they are extremely hot when on the stage.

*Jeans (unless specifically stated), leggings, running pants, boots, sneakers, or revealing clothing will be acceptable at any time for performance attire.

* Any student not dressed in proper performance attire will not be permitted to perform.

Coffee House: Attire will be determined by student officers based upon the theme.

Spring Concert: Black formal gowns for women; suit/tuxedo for men

Women: standardized gown is purchased from choir organization at the cost of \$70 payable by check to the FHSVMP. Fundraiser monies can be applied from the student activity account toward the purchase of the gown.

Men: black dress shirt/black dress pants, belt, and FHS gold tie purchased from the choir organization at the cost of \$70

* Any student that received free/reduced lunch or experiences financial hardship should notify Mrs. Volpato so that payment accommodations or gown/uniform rental can be addressed. No student should miss performing in a concert because they are unable to afford the attire.

Student and Parent Handbook Agreement Form

Return this form and the Grading Policy & Expectations Form as soon as possible.

Completion of the 2 forms with all appropriate signatures and initials will be counted as a Homework assignment grade.

Please check off :

_____ I have read and understand the guidelines of the FHS Choir Handbook

_____ I agree to abide by and follow these guidelines

Student Name _____

Student Signature _____ Date _____

Parent/Guardian Name _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date _____

Parent/Guardian Name _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date _____

FHS CHOIR COURSE EXPECTATIONS AND GRADING POLICY

Choir students will be graded based upon the following expectations and will be assessed throughout the marking period using the accompanying rubric. These core expectations have been created in collaboration between students and teacher and are reflective of the overall goals and curricular standards and objectives of the choir program.

STUDENT AND PARENT/GUARDIAN: PLEASE INITIAL NEXT TO EACH OBJECTIVE BELOW

Attendance:

- ____ Students are expected to arrive on time and be prepared for all classes and performances/concerts
- ____ Students are expected to communicate with the teachers in advance if they are to miss a rehearsal or a performance
- ____ Students are expected to have a note or late pass for late arrivals or missed rehearsals/performances if they were unable to communicate with the teacher in advance
- ____ Students are expected to sign in and indicate time of arrival with the attendance secretaries if arriving late to class

Participation:

- ____ Students are expected to sing when appropriate
- ____ Student are expected to give 100% effort and cooperation
- ____ Students are expected to participate fully in warm-ups, rehearsals, concerts, and performances

Behavior:

- ____ Students are expected to treat peers and teachers with respect at all times
- ____ Students are expected to follow all instructions
- ____ Students are expected to have phones and electronic devices put away during rehearsals and concerts unless they are included as part of the assignment; texting is not acceptable at any time.
- ____ Students are expected to come prepared to rehearse; doing homework, putting on makeup, texting, talking at inappropriate times, or other non-rehearsal or performance related behavior is not acceptable.
Note: There will be additional point deductions for students who are repeatedly caught talking, texting, or not participating during warm-ups and rehearsals.
- ____ Students are expected to be actively involved in rehearsals and performances; therefore, eating, drinking, or chewing gum is not acceptable while singing or in performance.
- ____ Students are expected to clean up all personal items after rehearsals and performances, including trash

Performances:

- Notes relative to performance attendance, participation and behavior are indicated above. The following are additional objectives
- ____ Students are expected to participate in all concerts and/or performance events unless given an excused absence after communicating with one of the directors.
 - ____ Students are expected to be dressed in proper concert attire.
 - ____ Students are expected to assist with clean-up of personal items and breakdown of concert set-up after all concerts and performances

The above expectations have been created to establish a successful and enjoyable choir experience for all students.

Please sign the form below indicating that you have read and understand all expectations included in the choir grading policy. If you have any questions or need further clarification please speak individually with one of the choir directors before signing below; your signature indicates that you have read and understand the expectations.

ALL COURSE EXPECTATIONS MUST BE INITIALED BY BOTH STUDENT AND PARENT/GUARDIAN AND RETURNED BY THE REQUIRED DUE DATE: SEPTEMBER 7TH FOR STUDENTS TO RECEIVE FULL CREDIT FOR COMPLETION.

My signature below indicates that I have read, initialed, and fully understand the above expectations and that I understand that these objectives will be included as part of my choir grade.

Print student name

Student Signature

Date

Print Parent/Guardian name

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date